Modern Greek Studies Foundation

Μαντατοφόρος*

The Nikos Kazantzakis Chair

Center for Modern Greek Studies
San Francisco State University

Winter 1992 *MANDATOPHOROS: Bearer of news, messenger Vol. 8, No. 3

The Third Annual Kazantzakis Chair Benefit Gala -- Success, Winners and Celebrants Highlight Event

The ***Modern Greek Studies Foundation*** held its annual ***Kazantzakis Chair Gala Benefit Dinner and Dance*** on September 26 at the ***Church of the Ascension*** in Oakland. In cooperation with the Church and the ***United Greek Cypriots of Northern California***, the event focussed on the culture and cuisine of Cyprus and had as its special guest of honor ***Patroklos Stavrou***, Undersecretary to the President of Cyprus. ***Senator Nicholas C. Petris***, president of the MGSF, once again presided as host, while, also repeating gala services, ***Sotiris Kitrilakis*** and Chef ***Angel Stoyano***f headed the culinary and wine selection portions of the dinner.

Funds raised by gala contributions and raffle ticket donations were advanced by the MGSF to the Nikos Kazantzakis Chair endowment at San Francisco State University.

His Excellency Patroklos Stavrou and SFSU President Dr. Robert Corrigan

University President ***Dr. Robert Corrigan*** and his wife, ***Joyce***, were also guests at the dinner, courtesy of MGSF Chairman ***George M. Marcus***. During the program, Senator Petris presented Dr. Corrigan with an MGSF donation of $100,000 for the Kazantzakis Chair. With this latest donation, the MGSF's goal of $500,000 is almost within reach!

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The Center for Modern Greek Studies Presents a Lecture by Dr. Michael Herzfeld

Dr. Michael Herzfeld, professor at and chair of the department of anthropology at Harvard, will lecture on "***History and Person in a Cretan Town***", Tuesday, December 1, 1992. The Center for Modern Greek Studies, the ***Balkan Studies Group*** and the ***Department of Anthropology***, both of ***UC Berkeley***, are co-sponsoring this event, which will take place at ***182 Dwinelle*** on the Cal campus and will begin at 7 PM.

Dr. Herzfeld presently holds fellowships in the United States, Australia and in France and has won awards in Folklore and in the Anthropology of Art. A past president of the Modern Greek Studies Association, he has also published several works concentrating on the ethnography of Greece. His lecture will address the issue of Cretan identity, with an emphasis on how social anthropology, folklore and history have shaped the the individual and the culture.

Admission is free and on-campus parking is available in the Student Union garage (on Bancroft, near Telegraph). For additional information, please contact the Center at 415-338-1892.

1993 MGSA International Symposium Planned for Berkeley

The prestigious ***Modern Greek Studies Association***, a national multi-field organization, has planned for its 1993 international symposium to be held in the Bay Area. ***The Center for Modern Greek Studies*** and ***The Speros B. Vryonis Center for the Study of Hellenism*** are the local arrangements organizations for the conference, whose focus is "Greeks and Others: the Nation, the Region, the Diaspora." The symposium will take place on October 28-30, 1993 and its site will be Berkeley's Marina Marriott.

Founded in 1968, the MGSA has presented symposia throughout the United States since 1969, topics of which have covered the spectrum of Modern Greek issues, from literature and the arts, to politics and culture. Headed by Executive Director ***Dr. John Iatrides***, the organization plays a spearhead and unifying role among Modern Greek Studies programs in the U.S. and Canada. In addition to the symposia, its international reputation is complemented by a noted publication series, including the ***Journal of Modern Greek Studies***.

Prospective participants for 1993's symposium are required to submit their proposals by January 5, 1993. The MGSA suggests the symposium theme be addressed "in a broad and creative manner" and with a focus, possibly, on recent events in the region and beyond, as they affect Greece. For required proposal format and additional information, please call the Center at 415-338-1892.

Center's Thanasis Maskaleris Retires from SFSU, But...

Among those faculty of San Francisco State University who will retire this semester is Center Director ***Thanasis Maskaleris***. He will retire from his regular teaching position in the departments of Comparative Literature, Classics and Creative Writing — but has received approval from the University administration to remain in his position as the director of the Center and the ***Kazantzakis Chair***.

As more time will be available to him, Prof. Maskaleris plans to concentrate on building the Modern Greek Studies program and on augmenting the Kazantzakis Chair endowment at the University. He is already preparing to expand the cultural activities of the Center — dramatic productions and a Greek Film Festival, as well as a regular lecture series will be among the first such activities. He will also continue his research and writing on Kazantzakis and will concentrate on augmenting the Center library and the Kazantzakis/Cretan archive. — And he will continue teaching courses on Modern Greek literature and culture.

Though his students and fellow faculty will surely miss him, the Center and the Kazantzakis Chair will clearly benefit from this sadly premature, yet most promising event.

-- J.T.

Kazantzakis Chair Gala, cont'd...

The focus on Cyprus was highlighted by a presentation, from Mr. Stavrou to Senator Petris and the Center, of books and artifacts on Cypriot culture and history. In addition, an exhibit of jewelry, native costumes and folk art was prepared by Mrs. Kikes Talarides.

Other highlights included: the awarding of citations to Kitrilakis and Stoyanof from the MGSF for their on-going involvement in Center and MGSF events, with special regards for their success at choice gala menus present and past and at their efforts to put Greek cuisine at the forefront of the ethnic food boom. The third citation went to***Mrs. Eleni Kazantzakis***, who was honored for her active role in the continued recognition of her husband's work and for her generous support and devotion to the Kazantzakis Chair at SFSU. Mr. Stavrou, who is literary executor of Kazantzakis' work, accepted the award on behalf of Mrs. Kazantzakis.

The evening was capped off by the drawing of winners for the raffle ticket drive. Congratulations to: Costas and Thetis Pappas (grand prize trip to Greece and resort accomodations in Crete and Cyprus), Michelle Mountanos (second prize, trip to and mainland tour of Greece) and Center Director Thanasis Maskaleris (third prize, a Bodega Bay weekend) .

Kudos to the Gala committee, headed by ***Dr. Peter Haikalis*** and his wife, ***Susan***, for a successful and enjoyable evening!

MGSF Board of Directors News

Apologies to ***Dr. Harry Lefakis***, president of ***Democritos***, for having omitted his name among the newly elected MGSF board of directors in the last issue of ***Mandatophoros***. A key member in a number of Northern California organizations, his input will surely help the causes of the MGSF.

On October 15, ***Virginia Lagiss*** was the latest speaker and interviewee in the ***Hellenic American Professional Society***'s "**Oral History Evenings**" series. The ***Church of the Holy Cross***, in Belmont, was the site of this important program, which has also featured *The Honorable George Christopher* and *Frank Agnost*. Still in its embryo stage, the series promises to become a prime source, with video and written archives, for the extensive and impactful history of Greek Americans in the Bay Area.

An active speaker on and chronicler of the Greek American experience, Mrs. Lagiss discussed the challenges she faced as a second generation Greek American in Northern California, with an emphasis on the woman's perspective and on the reconciliation between career, family and cultural demands. Congratulations to Mrs. Lagiss for a most informative evening!

The Honorable Anastasios K. Simonidis and Senator Nicholas C. Petris at St. Barnabas Award Event.

More congratulations: to ***The Honorable Dr. Anastassios Simonidis***, a founding member and active Honorary Board member of the MGSF and the Honorary Consul General of Cyprus in San Francisco, who merited the 1992 ***St. Barnabas Award***. Presented at the dinner of the *United Greek Cypriots of Northern California* celebrating the 32nd Anniversary of the Independence of Cyprus on September 18, the award recognizes Dr. Simonidis for his active role in the Cypriot and Greek community and "for his lifelong contributions to the struggle of Cyprus for justice and freedom."

Recent Contributors to the MGSF

Daughters of Penelope, Oakland Echo Chapter #4
The Hellenic American Professional Society
Order of Ahepa, Oakland Chapter #171
The Speros B. Vryonis Center for the Study of Hellenism
The United Cypriots of Northern California

Patricia Aleck * George Bezaitis
Frank and Hariklia Boone
Kati Casida * Christos and Betty Christ
Ted & Kay Cuclis * Robert Frank/Fireman's Fund Match
Christopher & Maria Georgiou
Arthur and Christine Gonos
Peter and Susan Haikalis * Clare and Alyce Karahalios
Sotiris Kolokotronis * Titika Koplos
Jim and Virginia Lagiss * George and Cleo Lekas
Chrysanthy Leones * Dimitri and Athan Magganas
George & Judy Marcus * George & Christina Papadakis
Aglaia Pappas * Jennie Pappas * Peter Pappas

Recent Contributors (cont'd)

Maria Petersen * Senator Nicholas C. and Anna Petris
John and Popi Polyzos * Catherine Salonites
John and Tina Siambis
The Hon. Anastasios & Athena Simonidis
Athena Vutiritsas * Gary and Vicky Yancey

Books and Special Donations to the Center

The Greek Ministry of Culture
E. John Kleines, Esq. * George Marchi
David Schermerhorn * Glenn Schmoll
Prof. Nanos Valaoritis

The MGSF and the Center would like to thank the above donors as well as those who supported this Kazantzakis Chair fund raising effort by attending the dinner and/or purchasing raffle tickets. Special thanks to Titika Koplos, Raffle Chairperson and Mary Thodos and Nicoletta Arnest (reservations committee).

Dated Material

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"Greek Mediterranean" Dinner Meadowood Resort

Angel Stoyanof will be a guest chef in the Meadowood Resort and Merryvale Vineyard's "Twelve Days of Christmas" program in St. Helena. Renowned chefs from restaurants in New York, Dallas and the Bay Area are scheduled to participate in the twelve-evening dinner forum — which runs from December 11 to December 22 and which will highlight specialty or regional menus prepared by the guest chefs.

Mr. Stoyanof has planned a five course "Greek Mediterranean" dinner for his featured evening, December 15, 1992. His menu includes staple favorites as well as dishes composed with a complexity of flavors. Those who have attended all three of the MGSF's Benefit Galas and those who frequent Stoyanof's Cafe and Restaurant know how expertly Chef Stoyanof prepares his dishes. December's guest spot at Meadowood will surely prove to be another feather in his (chef's) hat. For additional information, please call Meadowood at 800-458-8080.

Center 1993 Courses

Students and philhellenes alike are urged to speak up now — the Center is preparing for future courses and needs your input. What courses interest you most? What are the best days and times for you — to insure your semester-long attendance? To offer your suggestions, or if you have questions on our course offerings, please write us or call the Center, 415-338-1892.

For Spring 1993, the Center is offering Second Semester Modern Greek. ***Forthcoming courses and special events -- Byzantine Art and Architecture, Modern Greek History, Modern Greek Literature and Culture; a special lecture series: "The Greek Economy"; and a Greek Film Festival.***

Members of the community are welcome to attend and participate in all of the above courses through Extended Education. For registration details, please call the Classics Department at (415)338-2068, or Extended Education at (415) 338-1373.

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Join us today - your support is greatly appreciated!

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